

Monday - Jan. 2 - 1893 -

Only that the year will be comparatively old when this reaches you I would say "Happy New Year" - Any way our hearts were with you, all, yesterday - Last ~~Friday~~ ^{Thursday} night we reached the mouth of the Bonny River. This river is like most of the Florida rivers in this respect - there is a "bar" across the mouth. We arrived too late to cross it and as it is dangerous to cross it at night, we were compelled to remain at anchor until the following day at noon - Friday afternoon about two o'clock we anchored in the river opposite the old town of Bonny, about two miles in land - One of the first things to attract attention here is the many wrecks lying around. We counted not less than ~~seven~~ ^{seven}. It certainly was not a cheerful thing to contemplate and we were anxious till our fears were relieved by the explanation from the Captain. He said that in the early days of Bonny the people ^{Europeans} thought it impossible to live on the land and so old vessels were bought and brought here and anchored and used as residences - then when it was found that people could live on land just as well as the "trunks" were abandoned and left

5

to decay One old hull was pointed out to us as the remains of an American Steamer the "Adriatic" - perhaps some of our readers may remember her. At Bonny we saw for the first time a Chiefs Canoe. The canoe is much larger and handsomer than the usual every day canoe. The one we first saw had nineteen paddlers on each side and one at each end making fifty men at the paddles. Then there were two men playing on the "Tom Tom", a peculiar musical(?) instrument made of flat pieces of wood laid side by side and joined together by strings. Then another man who pounded on a smooth piece of wood with a thin stick, another who held in his hand a piece of hard wood on which he kept up a tab tab toasting time with the rest, another man with a horn of peculiar construction from which, at a great exertion, he made a most peculiar sound not in harmony with any of the other instruments. Then there were four men more who acted as special servants to the Chief, and then the Chief himself making in all fifty men - You can imagine the size of the canoe

These canoes are made of the trunk of the
Cotton wood tree.

Each paddler sat on the edge of the canoe
9 on one side and 9 on the other. And
they dug into the water as if they meant
it - and you can easily imagine they
made good time. An evening visited
the chief, and he only was dressed the
others were almost naked. - We had
the pleasure of seeing several of these
gay canoes some resplendent with
flags and gay awnings and some
very common place. Saturday we
went ashore to visit the mission. This
is under the care of Archdeacon Crowther
the son of the renowned Bishop Crowther
of whom I know many of your readers
have heard - The Bishop opened this
mission many years ago and it
is now almost self supporting, having
two churches in Bonny and several
further inland - One church is quite
large and has an average congrega-
tion of 800 - Christmas day there
were 2000 natives present at the
morning service - Mr Crowther showed
us a "Juju". Can you guess what
that is? Well it is their idol the one
he showed us was a small pottery vase
filled with dried leaves. The owner believed

a spirit or the spirit rested in the leaves
 and heard him and answered all his
 prayers - Any thing is a Juju which
 has been ~~used~~ ^{used} by their priest - so
 you see some with a piece of smooth bone
 or stick, or stone, or any thing like that
 they carry with them to keep off
 the "evil spirit". In the early days
 of the mission all the natives believed
 that the Bible was made in Liverpool
 and they could not understand how it
 was the "traders" who came from
 Liverpool were so wicked and it
 was ^{hard} work to convince them. The natives
 cannot discriminate between the "mission
 ary" and the "trader" both are white to
 him. One horrible superstition which
 held force in Bonny for years, was
 that the good spirit did not permit twins
 to be born only as a punishment animals
 might produce young in any number
 but natives never. So if twins were born
 it was to humiliate the mother, making her
 an animal - and the twins were in-
 variably killed and every drop of water
 and every bit of cooked food in the
 houses of the natives of that town ^{at the time} used
 to be thrown away. This superstition has